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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/738,292	12/18/2000	Christopher Thompson	9-13528-142US	2141
20988	7590	11/17/2004	EXAMINER	
OGILVY RENAULT 1981 MCGILL COLLEGE AVENUE SUITE 1600 MONTREAL, QC H3A2Y3 CANADA			HALIM, SAHERA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2157	

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/738,292

Applicant(s)

THOMPSON ET AL.

Examiner

Sahera Halim

Art Unit

2157

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 December 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/18/2000</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in Response to communication filled December 18, 2000.
2. Claims 1-34 are pending.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 19, 20, 24, 31, 32 are objected to because of the following informalities:
The mentions claims have typographical error. Claims 19 and 24 recite "suitcomprises", claim 31 recites "...different types if communications.", claim 32 recites "... an indication that the team member is prefers...", and claim 20 recites "suitefurther". For examinations purposes "suitecomprises" is read as suit comprises, the "different types if communications" is read as different types of communications, the "...an indication that the team member is prefers.." is read as an indication that the team member is prefers and the "suitefurther" is read as suite further. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

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5. Claims 1 - 16, and 18 - 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Parsons et al, U.S. Pat. Publication No. US 2002/0085701 A1 (hereinafter Parsons).

6. Regarding claim 1, Parsons teaches a team member profile maintained by a persistent collaboration services suite for facilitating collaboration between members of a team, (See pg. 1, 0009) the team member profile comprising communications information defining preferences of a respective team member for participating in each one of a plurality of different types of communications (pg. 1, 0010).

7. As to claim 2, Parsons teaches a team member profile as claimed in claim 1, where in the types of communications comprise: 1-way messaging; 2-way messaging, voice, and multi-media (pg. 1, 0010 and pg. 3, 0028).

8. Reference to claim 3, Parsons discloses a team member profile as claimed in claim 2, wherein 1-way messaging comprises one or more of paging, and e-mail (pg. 1, 0010).

9. As to claim 4, Parsons teaches a team member profile as claimed in claim 2, wherein 2-way messaging comprises instant messaging (IM) (pg. 5, 0044 and, 0048).

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10. Regarding claim 5, Parsons discloses a team member profile as claimed in claim 2, wherein multi-media communications comprises one or more of : document sharing; application sharing ; 1-way video conferencing; and 2-way video conferencing (pg. 5, 0048).

11. Per claim 6, Parsons teaches a team member profile as claimed in claim 1, wherein the communications information comprises, for each one of the plurality of different types of communications, a selected one of (Fig. 4) :
an indication that the respective team member prefers not to participate in the respective type of communications (Fig. 4H and pg. 7, 0075); and communications preference information identifying a preferred communications device selected by the respective team member for participating in the respective type of communications (Fig. 4K and pg. 8, 0081).

12. Regarding claim 7, Parsons teaches a team member profile as claimed in claim 2, wherein the communications preference information comprises at least an address of the preferred communications device (pg. 6, 0064 and 0066 and Fig. 4D).

13. Per claim 8, Parsons discloses a team member profile as claimed in claim 7, wherein the address comprises any one or more of: a public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) destination number (DN) ; a Private Branch Exchange (PBX) extension number; an internet protocol (IP) address; and an e-mail address (pg. 2, 0027 – 0028) .

14. Reference to claim 9, Parsons discloses a team member profile as claimed in claim 2, wherein a plurality of team member profiles are instantiated in respect of the team member, each team member profile including respective different communications information defining the preferences of the respective team member for participating in each one of the plurality of different types of communications (pg. 1, 0008 – 0013).

15. Reference to claim 10, Parson teaches a team member profile as claimed in claim 9, wherein each team member profile is associated with a respective one of a plurality of different roles of the team member (pg. 4, 0037 -0039).

16. Regarding claim 11, Parsons teaches a team member profile as claimed in claim 10, wherein each one of the plurality of different roles is defined by the respective team member (pg. 5, 0045 – 0047).

17. Per claim 12, Parsons teaches a team member profile as claimed in claim 11, wherein the plurality of different roles comprises a working role of the team member (pg. 3, 0029).

18. Reference to claim 13, Parsons teaches a team member profile as claimed in claim 10, wherein each team member profile is further associated with a respective one of a plurality of different environments of the team member (pg. 3 0029 -0030).

19. Per claim 14, Parsons teaches a team member profile as claimed in claim 13, wherein each one of the plurality of different environments is defined by the respective team member (pg. 3, 0029 – 0030).

20. Regarding claim 15, Parsons teaches a team member profile as claimed in claim 14, wherein the plurality of different environments comprises an office environment of the team member (pg. 3, 0029).

21. Reference to claim 16, Parsons teaches a team member profile as claimed in claim 9, wherein each one of the plurality of team member profiles is defined by the respective team member (pg. 4, 0037).

22. Reference to claim 18, Parsons teaches a method for enabling a team member to select a respective team member profile, the team member profile being maintained by a persistent collaboration services suit for facilitating collaboration between members of a team, the method comprising the step of (abstract and pg. 1, 008 - 0013): enabling the team member to interact with the persistent collaboration services suite to select communications information defining preferences of a respective team member for participating in each one of a plurality of different types of communications (pg. 4, 0037).

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23. Reference to claim 19, Parsons teaches a method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the step of enabling the team member to interact with the persistent collaboration services suit comprises the step of (pg. 3, 0029): providing an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) interface to the persistent virtual team environment (pg. 2, 0027); and enabling the team member to access the IVR using a voice communication device (Fig. 2, pg. 3, 0033).

24. Regarding claim 20, Parsons teaches a method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the step of enabling the team member interact with the persistent collaboration services suite further comprises the steps of: playing an announcement including information of more options concerning communications information (pg. 8, 0087); receiving one more dialed digits dialed by team member in response to the announcement; and selecting the communications information using the received dialed digits (pg. 8, 0088 –0090).

25. Reference to claim 21, Parsons teaches a method as claimed claim 20, wherein the information of one more options comprises information identifying each one plurality team member profiles, each team member profile including respective different communications information (pg. 0090).

26. As to claim 22 Parson discloses a method as claimed claim wherein the dialed digits dialed by the team member comprise an indication a preferred one of the plurality theteam member profiles (Fig. 8 and pg. 8, 0088 –0090).

27. Per claim 23, Parsons teaches a method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the step of selecting communications preference information comprises a step of using the dialed digits dialed by team member select one plurality of team member profiles as a current profile (Fig. 8 and pg. 8, 0088 –0090).

28. Regarding claim 24, Parsons, teaches a method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the step of enabling the team member to interact with the persistent collaboration services suit comprises the steps of (summary): providing a graphical user interface (GUI) adapted to interact with the persistent collaboration services suit (pg. 5, 0050 – 0052); and enabling the team member to access the graphical interface using a GUI-enabled communications device (pg. 5, 005 -0053)

29. Regarding claim 25, Parsons discloses a method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the GUI is instantiated in the GUI-enabled communications device and adapted to interact with the collaboration services suite through a network (Fig. 3, pg. 5, 0048 – 0052).

30. Reference to claim 26, Parsons teaches a method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the GUI is instantiated by a web page associated with the collaborations services suite and accessible by the GUI-enabled communications device through an IP network (Fig. 3, pg. 5, 0048 – 0052).

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31. Regarding claim 27, Parsons teach a method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the GUI-enabled communications device comprises any one of: a PC; a wireless PDA, a Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) enabled communications devices (pg. 3, 0036-0037).

32. As to claim 28, Parsons teaches a method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the step of enabling the team member to interact with the persistent collaboration services suite further comprises the steps of: using the GUI to display information of one or more options concerning the communications information (pg. 4, 0037); receiving an input from the team member indicative of a team member selection (Fig. 4); and selecting the communications information using the team member selections (Fig. 4, 0053 – 0085).

33. Per claim 29, Parsons teaches a method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the information of one or more options comprises information identifying each one of a plurality team member profile, each team member profile including respective different communications information (pg. 3, 0036).

34. Reference to claim 31, Parsons discloses a method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the information of one or more options comprises information identifying an availability of the team member for participating in each one of the plurality of different types of communications (Fig. 8, 0096 - 0097).

35. As to claim 32, Parsons teaches a method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the step of selecting the communications information comprises, in respect of each one of the plurality of different types of communications, a step of using the input form the team member to select one of (Fig. 4, 0053 – 0085); and indication that the team member is prefers not to participate in the respective type of communications (Fig. 4H, pg. 7, 0075); and information identifying a preferred communications device selected by the team member for participating in the respective type of communications (Fig. 4K and pg. 8, 0081).

36. Regarding claim 33, Parson teaches a method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the information identifying a preferred communications device comprises at least an address of the preferred communications device (pg. 6, 0064 and pg. 7, 0066).

37. As to claim 34, Parsons discloses a team member profile as claimed in claim 33, wherein the address comprises any one or more of: a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) destination number (DN); a Private Branch Exchanged (PBX) extension number; an internet protocol (IP) address; and an e-mail address (pg. 6, 0064 and pg. 7, 0066).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

38. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

39. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parsons. Parsons does not explicitly teach one of the plurality of team member profiles is selected by the team member as a current profile. However it would have been obvious for a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add the above limitations to the invention of Parsons in order to enhance the reliability and effectiveness of the system.

Conclusion

40. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S Pat. No. 6,226,519 to Van Doorselaer et al.

U.S. Pat No. 6,327,590 to Chidlovskii et al.

U.S. Pat. Pub No. 2003/0063072 to Brandenburg et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sahera Halim whose telephone number is (703) 305-8054. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (703) 308-7562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sahera Halim
Patent Examiner
AU : 2157

November 8, 2004



SALEH NAJJAR
PRIMARY EXAMINER